

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 11, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 9

**Introduced by Assembly Members Mitchell, Bradford, Brown, Hall,
Holden, Jones-Sawyer, and Weber**

(Principal coauthors: Senators Price and Wright)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bloom, Blumenfield, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, García, Gatto, Gomez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Hagman, Harkey, Hueso, Jones, Levine, Linder, Logue, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Medina, Melendez, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Torres, Wagner, Waldron, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

January 28, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9—Relative to Black History Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 9, as amended, Mitchell. Black History Month.

This measure would recognize February 2013 as Black History Month, urge all citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month, and encourage the people of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and contributions that African Americans make to their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, distinguished African
2 American author, editor, publisher, and historian, who is known
3 as the “Father of Black History,” founded Negro History Week in
4 1926, which became Black History Month in 1976, intended to
5 encourage further research and publishing regarding the untold
6 stories of African American heritage; and

7 WHEREAS, The history of African Americans here in the
8 United States, as well as throughout the ages, is indeed unique and
9 vibrant, and it is appropriate to celebrate this history during the
10 month of February 2013, which has been proclaimed as Black
11 History Month; and

12 WHEREAS, There is even greater cause for a reverent
13 celebration in 2013 as Americans reflect on the significance of the
14 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the 50th
15 anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom,
16 and the 50th anniversary of the death of civil rights leader Medgar
17 Evers; and

18 WHEREAS, The history of the United States is rich with
19 inspirational stories of great men and noble women whose actions,
20 words, and achievements have united Americans and contributed
21 to the success and prosperity of the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, During the first millennium, the Catholic Church
23 had three popes who were either from Africa or of African descent:
24 Saint Victor I (189–99), Saint Miltiades (311–14), and Saint
25 Gelasius I (492–96); and

26 WHEREAS, The slave trade was a tragic episode in African
27 history and began before August 1619 when the first slaves arrived
28 in Jamestown, Virginia. During the course of the slave trade, an
29 estimated 50 million African men, women, and children were lost
30 to their native continent, though only about 15 million arrived
31 safely to a new home. The others lost their lives on African soil
32 or along the Guinea coast, or finally in holds on the ships during
33 the dreaded Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean; and

34 WHEREAS, The first American to shed blood in the revolution
35 that freed America from British rule was Crispus Attucks (March
36 5, 1770, Boston Massacre), an African American seaman and slave.
37 African Americans also fought in wars including the Battles of
38 Lexington and Concord in April 1775, Ticonderoga, White Plains,
39 Bennington, Brandywine, Saratoga, Savannah, Yorktown, Bunker
40 Hill, the Battle of Rhode Island on August 29, 1775, and other

1 revolutionary war battles, the War of 1812, including, the Battle
2 of New Orleans, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World
3 Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam; and

4 WHEREAS, In spite of the African slave trade, many Africans
5 and African Americans continued to move forward in society;
6 during the Reconstruction period, two African Americans served
7 in the United States Senate and 14 sat in the House of
8 Representatives; and

9 WHEREAS, From the earliest days of the United States, the
10 course of its history has been greatly influenced by Black heroes
11 and pioneers in many diverse areas, from science, medicine,
12 business, and education to government, industry, and social
13 leadership; and

14 WHEREAS, Africans and African Americans have also been
15 great inventors, inventing and improving things such as the
16 air-conditioning unit, almanac, automatic gearshift, blood plasma
17 bag, clothes dryer, doorknob, doorstop, electric lamp bulb, elevator,
18 fire escape ladder, fountain pen, gas mask, golf tee, horseshoe,
19 lantern, lawnmower, lawn sprinkler, lock, lubricating cup,
20 refrigerating apparatus, spark plug, stethoscope, telephone
21 transmitter, thermostat control, traffic signal, and typewriter; and

22 WHEREAS, A number of these brave and accomplished
23 individuals, such as Booker T. Washington, George Washington
24 Carver, Matthew Hansen, Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Charles Drew,
25 Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Curt Flood, Medgar Evers, and,
26 of course, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., are noted prominently in
27 the history books of students nationwide, thus enabling them to
28 learn about the important and lasting contributions of these
29 individuals; and

30 WHEREAS, Among those Americans who have enriched our
31 society are the members of the African American
32 community—individuals who have been steadfast in their
33 commitment to promoting brotherhood, equality, and justice for
34 all; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
36 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature takes great pleasure in
37 recognizing February 2013 as Black History Month, urges all
38 citizens to join in celebrating the accomplishments of African
39 Americans during Black History Month, and encourages the people
40 of California to recognize the many talents, achievements, and

- 1 contributions that African Americans make to their communities;
- 2 and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
- 4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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